

# MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION

February 20, 2020 - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm  
Polk County River Place – Room 2  
2309 Euclid Ave, Des Moines, Iowa  
MEETING MINUTES

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## MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Bouska (phone)  
Thomas Broeker  
Dennis Bush  
Teresa Daubitz  
Jody Eaton  
Kathryn Johnson  
Geoffrey Lauer

John Parmeter  
Maria Sorensen  
Cory Turner (phone)  
Richard Whitaker  
Russell Wood  
Lorrie Young

## MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shari O'Bannon  
Senator Jeff Edler  
Senator Pam Jochum

Representative Joel Fry  
Representative Scott Ourth

## OTHER ATTENDEES:

Theresa Armstrong  
Teresa Bomhoff  
Kim Callaher  
Mardi Deluhery  
John Hedgecoth  
Jane Hudson  
Jeff Kerber  
Julie Maas  
Flora Schmidt  
Jason Vermeer

MHDS, Bureau Chief Community Services & Planning  
Mental Health Planning Council  
Plains Area Mental Health Center  
Family member  
Amerigroup  
Disability Rights Iowa  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
MHDS, Community Services & Planning  
Iowa Behavioral Health Association  
Iowa Total Care

## Welcome and Call to Order

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 9:32 am and led introductions. Quorum was established with nine members present and three participating by phone. No conflicts of interest were identified.

## Approval of Minutes

Tom Broeker made a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Russell Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Discussion on MHDS Regional Funding

The Commission discussed the Invest in Iowa Act and the concerns with lowering the county property tax levy for mental health and disability services to \$12.50. There was discussion on how this change would impact Regions differently and some Regions would benefit while others would have a decrease in funding. There was discussion on the benefits of braiding state dollars with county dollars and concerns expressed about the state following through with their promise and ongoing funding after year one. There was discussion about the cost of building the new core services for adults and for children and if there is enough money in the Governor's

proposal to cover those costs. There was discussion about even with the concerns it is a step in the right direction to blend state and county dollars but there are areas for improvement. There was concern expressed that the state money would only be used for core services and the support services the Regions fund would be cut. These services are often what keeps individuals in the community and are important to sustain. The Regions and ISAC would like to see language that protects their funding and allows for the counties to raise their levy caps if needed.

There was discussion on how children with an intellectual disability or brain injury are left out of the children's mental health system and the bill does not help funding for their services.

There was discussion on how crisis services are the focus right now and they are expensive without having high utilization. There was concern that other services are being cut like supported community living to fund crisis services.

There was discussion on possible Commission action including pulling together talking points for Commission members and writing a letter to the Governor and General Assembly in support of the Act. There was discussion on the role of the Commission and the importance of staying within their role in how they advocate. There was discussion on how stable sustainable funding was addressed in their annual report and that recommendation has not changed. There was discussion on how the Commission would like to see more progress but are supportive of the framework outlined in the Governor's Act.

#### **DHS Director Kelly Garcia**

Director Kelly Garcia introduced herself and thanked the Commission for having her to discuss what updates on DHS. Director Garcia said that she has spent a lot of time listening and getting to know the landscape of Iowa and will continue doing that and still has a lot more people to meet. Glenwood has been a learning experience about the system, the communities, and the facilities and with every challenge comes opportunity. Director Garcia said that she has been out to the facility talking to staff, family members, and community partners. Director Garcia said she believes decisions are best made closest to practice and will be working on cross connections of client services. She will be taking steps in DHS to take a holistic view and better streamline services for the children served as well as the agencies who are their advocate.

Director Garcia said that DHS is working with their federal partners on the Glenwood situation and met with them as well as family members and staff. Director Garcia said she intends to visit all of the facilities and hold town hall meetings to become more familiar with the workings of each facility. DOJ was at Glenwood for a week and gave a report out but will be back in March and haven't been to Woodward yet. When they come back in March they will be meeting with present and former DHS leadership, DIA, and the auditor.

There was discussion on the Ombudsman office's report on child abuse and DHS's staffing issues and available funding. Director Garcia said there are discussions about increasing the staffing and that caseloads are difficult to calculate because not every caseload is the same. Director Garcia said that she is taking the time to understand the staffing and what appropriations would be needed before she makes another round of resource needs request.

There was discussion on the need to improve DHS's data collection system and the system currently being used isn't giving the necessary data we need to build our system. There was discussion on mental health and substance use disorder services and Director Garcia is talking with IDPH staff and it's on the list of conversations that needs to be had but she doesn't know if

moving agencies will provide the best outcomes. There was discussion on ongoing communication with the Commission and Director Garcia is still working to figure out all the places she needs to be and how to get to the right council at the right time.

### **MHDS Update –Theresa Armstrong**

Theresa said that she would start her update with the Children's State Board. The Board has been gathering information and part of that has been meeting with all the Regional CEOs. The last CEO panel was held at their meeting and highlighted where the regions are at with hiring children's coordinators and building their advisory committees. There was also a presentation from Early Childhood Iowa and Medicaid talked about the rate review process and rate comparisons to other states.

Theresa said the CMHC report DHS was required to complete was submitted and it would be sent to the Commission.

Theresa said the only update on the regions is that Muscatine County has asked to join Southeast Iowa Link and they have said no.

Theresa reviewed the legislation handout with bills related to mental health. Theresa said that many of the bills won't make it through the funnel. Bills reviewed included telehealth, work requirements for Medicaid, licensure rules, IMD, and precommitment rules.

### **Planning for Future Meetings**

The Commission requested presentations on public policy advocacy, the legislator panel at the May meeting, evidenced based practices and promising practices not being used in Iowa but are Medicaid approved in other states, update on complex needs development, and mental health advocate data.

### **Public Comment**

Teresa Bomhoff expressed concern about the Governor's Bill and that there isn't language to remove levy caps. Teresa also expressed concern about only core services being funded and supplemental and additional populations not being funded. Teresa expressed concern about the impact this would have on providers and the bill should be improved before it is supported.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Maas.